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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Morita, et al.

Filed.: Filed Concurrently Herewith

Title of Invention: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM

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Date of Deposit: July 10, 2001

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-40 and add the following new claims 41-66: